

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 888

By Doggett

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Martin Methodist College on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to recognize those institutions of higher learning that are dedicated to the education of men and women and provide a curriculum emphasizing human dignity; and

WHEREAS, Martin Methodist College is one such institution of higher learning, which has, since its founding, provided a supportive learning environment to help students grow intellectually, emotionally, physically, and spiritually; and

WHEREAS, celebrating its sesquicentennial this year, Martin Methodist College bears the name of Thomas Martin, the son of a Methodist minister; born in 1799, he moved to Pulaski as a young man and became a millionaire early in life, thanks to his uncommon business acumen. A loyal member of the Methodist church, he served as president of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad as well as a local savings bank. He was also a friend of President James K. Polk of Columbia and an influential political figure in the region; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Martin bequested an endowment of \$30,000 in his will for the establishment of a school for girls in Giles County, honoring the dream of his late daughter Victoria, who had requested this of her father before her death at the age of twenty; and

WHEREAS, following Mr. Martin's death in 1870, Martin Methodist College was founded as Martin Female College, moving to its current location five years later when the school purchased seven acres of land from Governor John C. Brown for \$16,000; for many years, the college consisted of a four-year boarding college for women and an elementary division for the children and youth who lived in Pulaski; and

WHEREAS, as the college grew, new facilities were added, and the campus expanded; in 1908, an agreement was reached to transfer the property of the college to the Tennessee Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the school's name was subsequently changed to Martin College; and

WHEREAS, Martin College became a coeducational institution in 1938, and the number of male students gradually increased until there were near-equal numbers of male and female students; and

WHEREAS, the school was renamed Martin Methodist College in April 1986, affirming the school's strong ties to The United Methodist Church and clearly stating the values of the Wesleyan tradition, which undergird the college; and

WHEREAS, in the 1993-1994 academic year, Martin Methodist College became a four-year institution and began offering baccalaureate degrees, one of the most far-reaching decisions in the history of the school; and

WHEREAS, in recent decades, the college has sought to increase the student body to at least 1,000 students; to that end, Martin Methodist College launched a ten-year plan, Martin 2010, to offer expanded programs and services for students; and

WHEREAS, Martin Methodist College acquired and constructed a number of buildings beginning in the 1990s, including the 1995 purchase of the home of Governor John C. Brown, which has been reconstructed due to irreparable damage; it is now known as the Herbert and Grace Grissom Colonial Hall and houses the administrative offices, reception and meeting rooms, and the Senator Ross Bass Archives; and

WHEREAS, the college also purchased forty-four acres east of the main campus in 1998 and completed construction of the East Campus Athletic Facility in 2013; the East Campus is the home of the baseball, softball, and men's and women's soccer teams, as well as other intramural sports; and

WHEREAS, the Turner Center for Church Leadership was established in April 1999 as part of the college's mission as a church-related institution of higher education and has now

expanded its mission to cultivate thriving rural communities by fostering collaborations among community leaders, creating opportunities for change, and unlocking the potential of the people in rural communities; and

WHEREAS, Martin Methodist College currently adds more than seventy million dollars to the economy of southern Middle Tennessee each year; and

WHEREAS, for 150 years, Martin Methodist College has recognized that each member of its learning community is uniquely gifted and called to fulfill a unique purpose and has developed generations of professionals in the areas of education, church, health services, criminal justice, and business, and it is our pleasure to recognize this institution of higher education on this auspicious occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters of Martin Methodist College for their commitment to higher education, congratulate them upon their 150th anniversary, and extend our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy, and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the state seal appear without House or Senate designation.